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Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
New York, 14-25 August 2006

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities on its eighth session

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, the General Assembly decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development.

2. In its resolution 60/232 of 23 December 2005, the General Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should hold, within existing resources, prior to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, two sessions in 2006, one of 15 working days, from 16 January to 3 February, in order to achieve a complete reading of the draft text of a convention prepared by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, and one of 10 working days, from 7 to 18 August.

3. At its seventh session, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that its eighth session be held from 14 to 25 August 2006.

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II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the eighth session

4. The Ad Hoc Committee held its eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 25 August 2006. In the course of its session, the Ad Hoc Committee held 20 meetings.

5. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs acted as the substantive secretariat, while the Disarmament and Decolonization Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee.

6. The eighth session of the Ad Hoc Committee was opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Don McKay, Ambassador of New Zealand.

B. Officers

7. The following officers continued to serve on the Bureau of the Committee:

Chairman:
Don McKay (New Zealand)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Jorge Ballestero (Costa Rica)
Petra Ali Doláková (Czech Republic)
Mu'taz Hyassat (Jordan)
Fiola Hoosen (South Africa)[1]

C. Agenda

8. At its 1st meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document A/AC.265/2006/L.4, as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Consideration of the working text as contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its seventh session (A/AC.265/2006/2, annex II).
5. Conclusion of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee at its eighth session.
6. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its eighth session.

[1] At its 1st meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee agreed that Fiola Hoosen of South Africa would serve on the Bureau as representative of the Group of African States.

D. Documentation

9. The Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (A/AC.265/2006/L.4);

(b) Proposed organization of work (A/AC.265/2006/L.5);

(c) Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on its seventh session (A/AC.265/2006/2);

(d) Letter dated 10 August 2006 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat (A/AC.265/2006/3);

(e) List of participants (A/AC.265/2006/INF/2);

(f) National institutional frameworks and human rights of persons with disabilities (background conference document prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs) (A/AC.265/2006/CRP.5).

III. Organization of work

10. During its eighth session, the Ad Hoc Committee concluded the draft text of a convention and an optional protocol in accordance with the programme of work adopted at its first meeting, on 14 August 2006. On 25 August, at its 20th meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the draft text of a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and an optional protocol.

IV. Recommendations

11. The Committee decided to establish an open-ended drafting group tasked with ensuring uniformity of terminology throughout the text of the draft convention, harmonizing the versions in the official languages of the United Nations and reporting on the results of its work to the Ad Hoc Committee at a meeting of its resumed eighth session, to be held before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in order to enable the Ad Hoc Committee to forward the finalized text of the convention to the Assembly, and requested the Secretary-General to provide adequate secretariat services for the drafting group within existing resources.

V. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee

12. At its 20th meeting, on 25 August 2006, the Committee adopted the draft report on its eighth session (A/AC.265/2006/L.6).

Annex I

Additional non-governmental organizations accredited to the Ad Hoc Committee

[...]

Annex II

Draft text of a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities

[...]